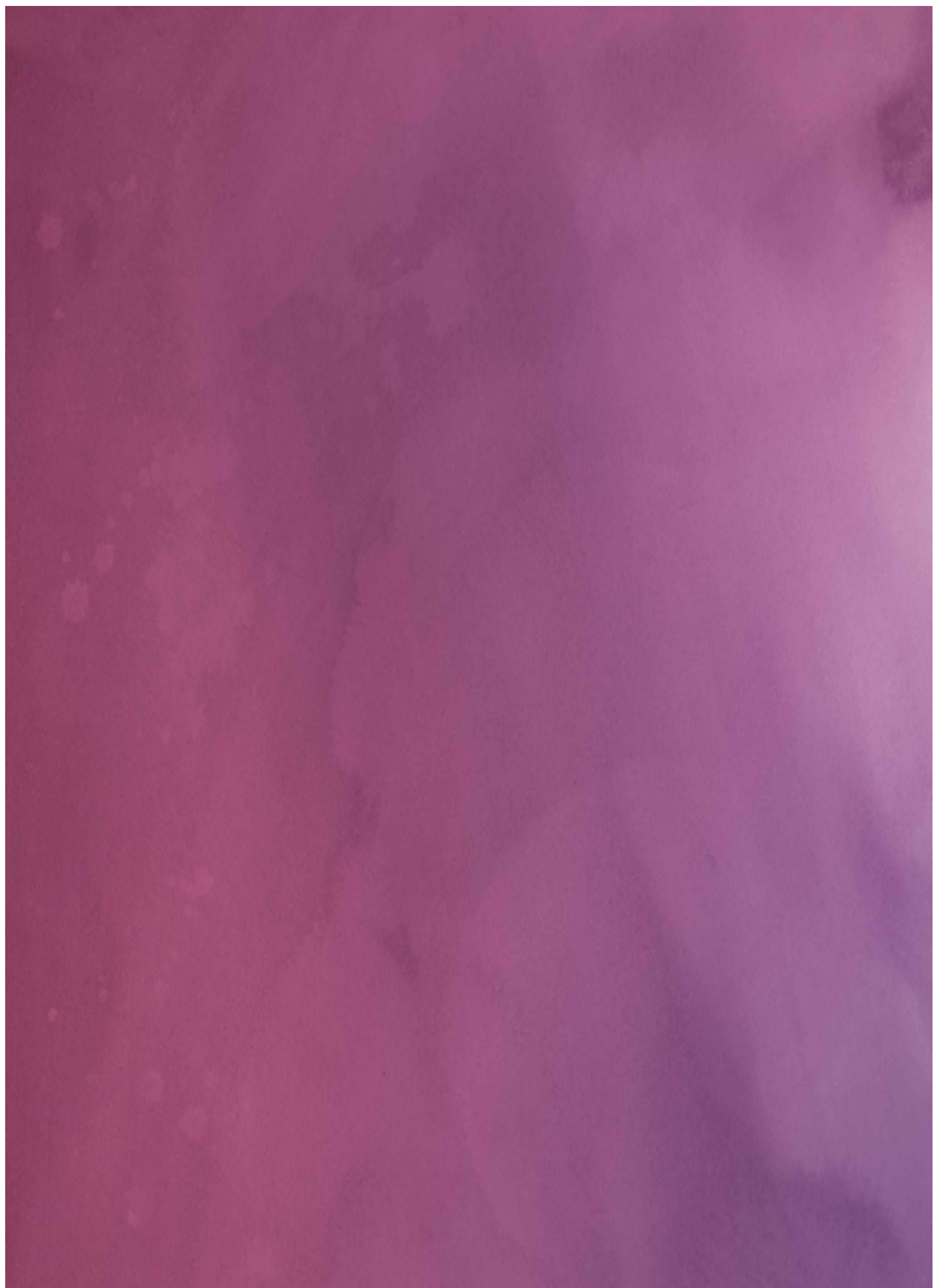


Jim Henson's™

THE DARK CRYSTAL™

TALES
by CORY GODBEY





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THE DARK CRYSTAL™ TALES



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**THE
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FEAST FOR
THE SKEKSIS

Within the Castle of the Crystal,
the cruel Skeksis await their evening meal.







Enough of these wretched Podling cooks!

We must send one of the Garthim
to trap us new food.

Something worth eating!



The Garthim dug a trap.



And waited.



Hm!

My Garthim do not fail!
Let us go and see what manner
of trap it has created.











Bah! Just a sogbird. Not even enough for eating.

Throw it away and get back to work!





CIRCLES OF KINDNESS



Far from the Castle of the Crystal,
hidden deep within the Valley of the Mystics,
young Jen has found a creature in need.





The Mystic carefully held the wounded creature in his wise, old hands.

There, there, now, Gelfling,
let me see...



Ah! That is better.





But where did it come from, Master?

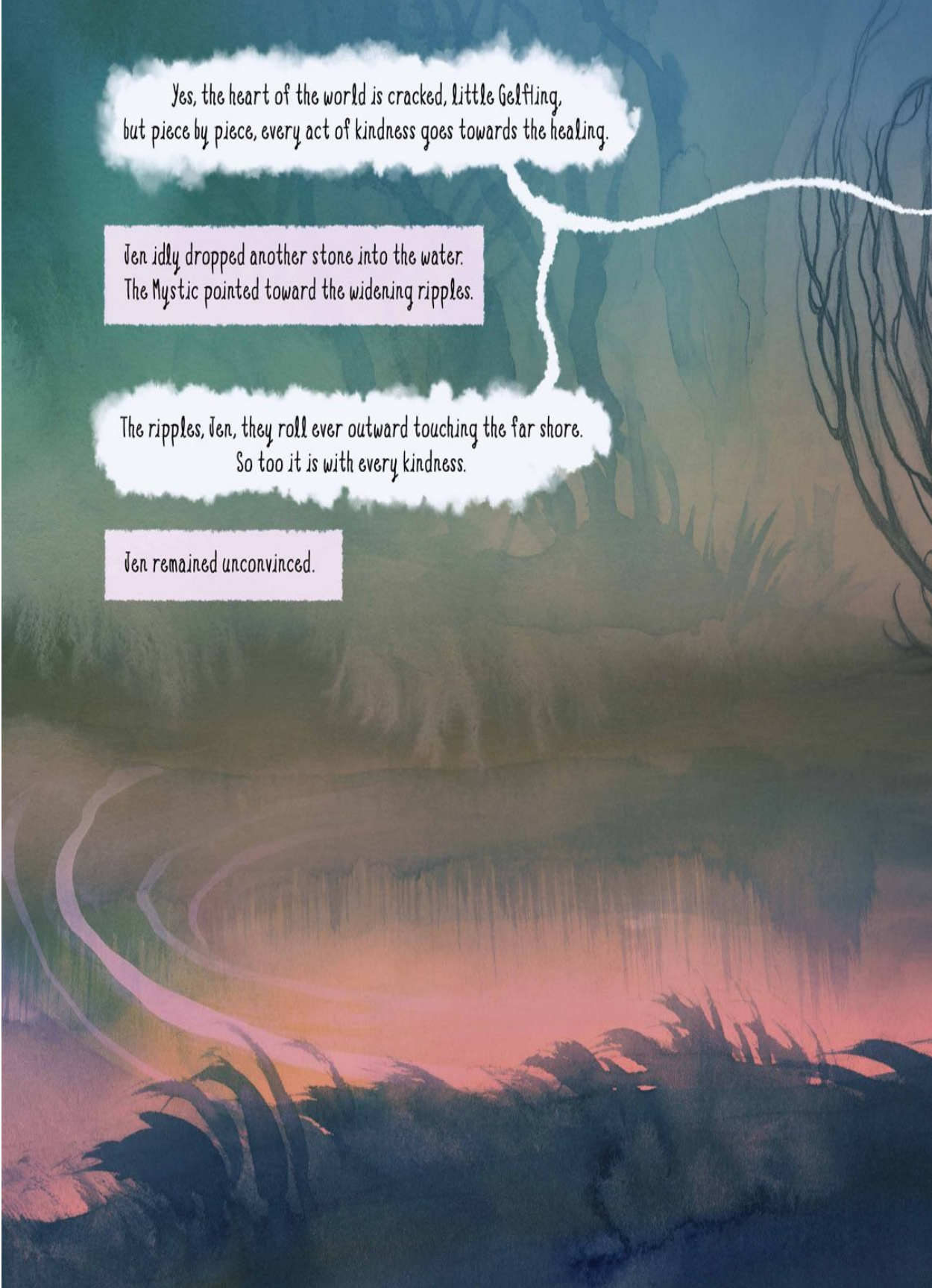
From anywhere.

Might there not be more injured creatures the whole world over?
Though I try, I can't help everyone. I'm just one Gelfling.

Jen wandered away and found himself on a grassy ledge above a pool. Deep in thought, he dropped stones, one by one, into the pond.

Just then, his Master appeared beside him.





Yes, the heart of the world is cracked, little Gelfling,
but piece by piece, every act of kindness goes towards the healing.

Jen idly dropped another stone into the water.
The Mystic pointed toward the widening ripples.

The ripples, Jen, they roll ever outward touching the far shore.
So too it is with every kindness.

Jen remained unconvinced.



I understand your meaning but my hands are too small, Master. I can only toss small rocks and make small ripples.





The background of the page is a watercolor-style illustration of concentric ripples on a body of water. The ripples are depicted with various shades of blue, green, and purple, creating a sense of depth and movement. A white, cloud-like thought bubble is positioned in the upper left quadrant of the image. Inside this bubble, there are three lines of text in a handwritten, cursive font. A thin white line extends from the bottom of the thought bubble, curving downwards and to the left, ending near the center of the ripples.

And yet, look how the rings grow. As ripples beget ripples,
perfect circles of kindness dance on and on, ever growing.

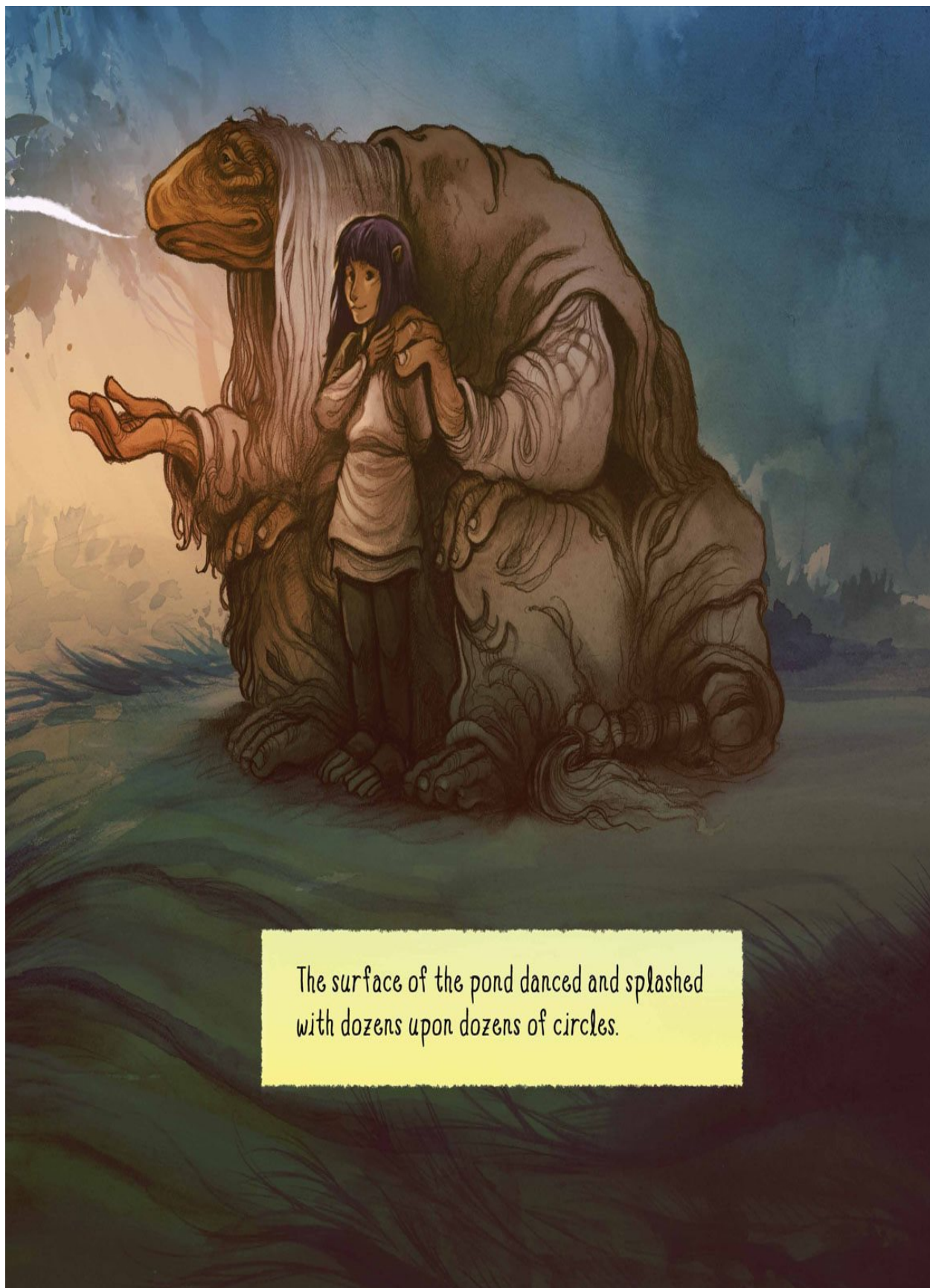
Not even the wisest can see where they will end,
who they will touch, or who they will help.

Look at the circles, Jen. These are the shapes of kindness.



And besides, my child, you are not the only one to make ripples in the world.

The Mystic scooped a handful of smooth stones and cast them into the water.



The surface of the pond danced and splashed
with dozens upon dozens of circles.

Come, Gelfling, it is time for our tea.



FIZZGIG'S MIGHTY QUEST



In the village of the gentle Podlings,
Kira's mother, Ydra, has fallen ill.

Oh dear, I know just what she needs,
a tea brewed from the sogflower.

I can't leave her side, Fizzqig, do you know the flower?



You do? Good! Hurry, Fizzgig!
Find a sogflower and bring it back quickly!





Fizzgig ran.



He searched high...



...and low.



He searched through many strange places.





But no matter how hard he tried,
Fizzgig could not find the sogflower.



But then!









Oh, Fizzqig, you're my hero!

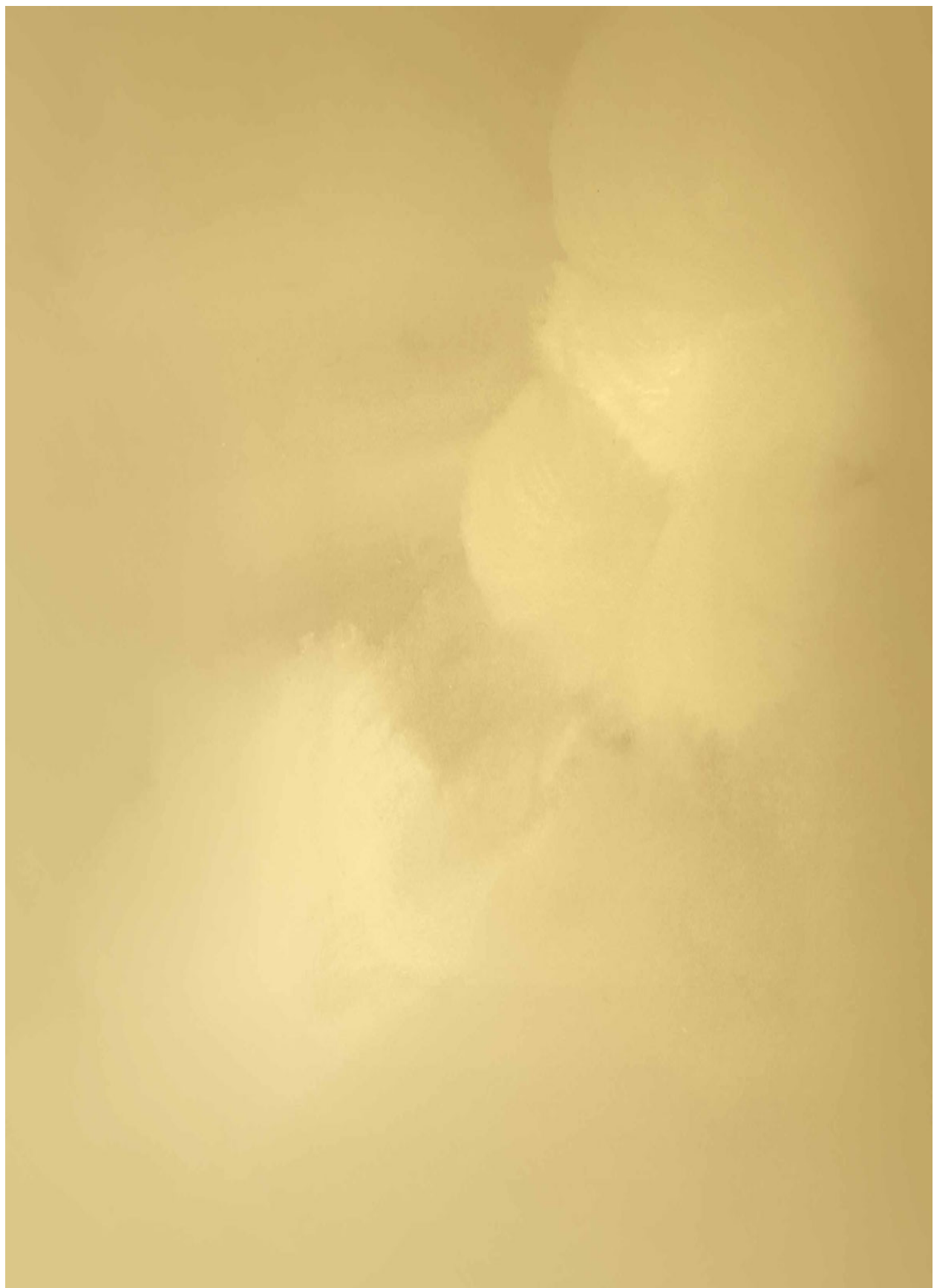








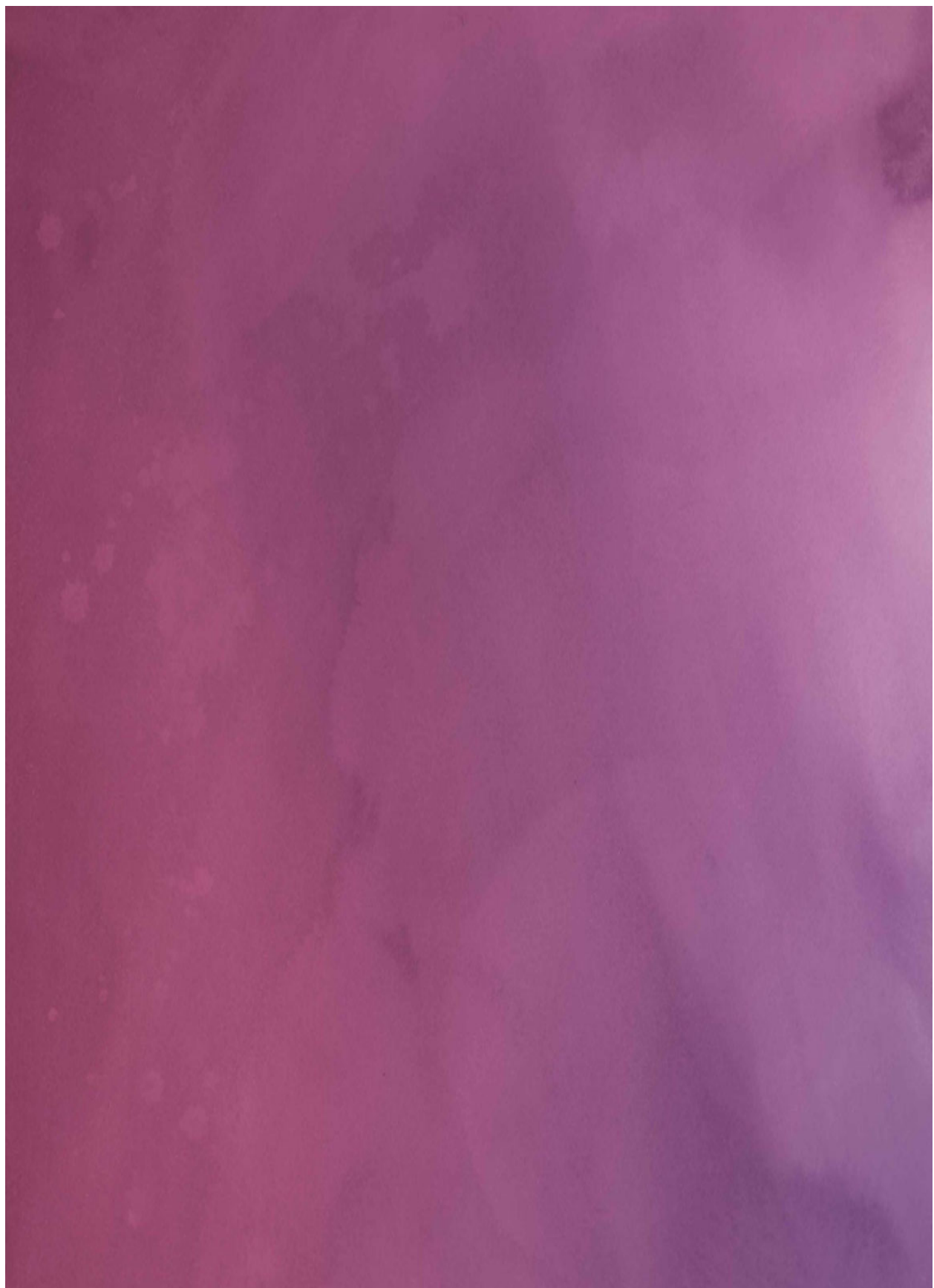
Photo by Greg Preston


ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Cory Godbey creates fanciful illustrations for books and films. His award-winning work has been featured in many esteemed annuals, including *Spectrum: The Best in Contemporary Fantastic Art* and *The Society of Illustrators*.

He enjoys meeting new creatures and hikes through twisting paths with friends.

Cory lives with his wife, son, and a pack of stray cats in Greenville, South Carolina. www.corygodbey.com





“The world of *The Dark Crystal* is a living piece of the great forest of words and pictures that are essential components of every fairy tale, folklore, or legend. And here in this book we have an artistic master of mythic landscapes and extraordinary characters, Cory Godbey’s sure aesthetic hand guides us to the heart of that deep, dark wood.”

—CHARLES VESS

World Fantasy Award-winning illustrator of *Stardust*

Join Jen, Kira, and Fizzgig from Jim Henson’s beloved cult-classic film *The Dark Crystal* before their fateful meeting. Here, they each embark on new side-adventures that will transform the life of one little bird after the cruel Skeksis set forth a series of events that ripple across the land.

Cory Godbey, the acclaimed children’s book storyteller behind the bestselling *Jim Henson’s Labyrinth Tales*, delves deeply into the Skeksis’ ruled land in this gorgeously rendered look at some of Jim Henson and Brian Froud’s finest creations.



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